awaited from some of the State Governments.

(b) No money has so far been given under the scheme during the current year.

(c) and (d). The scheme provides for appointment of teachers for teaching selected modern subjects in traditional Sanskrit Pathshalas and 100 per cent grant is given to the State Governments.

'Consumer Protection' as a subject in School Curricula

1655. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will he Miniser of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering the inclusion of consumer protection' as a subject in school curricula.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has approached the Indira Gandhi National Open University for formulating the plans and proposals for introducing the subject at various levels as well as requested the State Governments to take initiaives in this regard; and

(d) if so, he details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b). Some ideas having linkage to consumer rights have already been included in the Social Sciences text books of the NCERT. The NCERT textbooks are used in the schools affiliated to the CBSE. The majority of the schools in the country are with the State Governments who have autonomy in design of curricula for schools under their respective jurisdiction.

(c) and (d). As per information received from the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), an academic programme in the area of Consumer Protection has been designed by the University to train the persons who wish to take up leadership of Consumer Protection Movement at various levels. The State Governments have not been approached so far to take initiative in introducing this subject at various levels since the IGNOU's academic programme is yet to be implemented in consultation with the Ministry of Civil Suplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

Shrouded controversy about Joint Entrance Examination

1656. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the 'Hindustan Times' of 25th June, 1994 captioned "Flamed JEE mars students careers";

(b) if so, whether it was the fourth year in a row when Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) conducted for admission to IITs were shrouded in controversies; and

(c) what steps have been/are being taken to improve the admission procedure and practices for these prestigious institutions ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to

(c) Yes, Sir, The attention of the Government has been drawn to the report published in the Hindustan Times of 25th June, 1994. The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) has not been conducted with a flawed system and the Examinations have not been shrounded in any controversy during the last four years. However, the examination system is constantly under internal review within the IIT System.

Development of Hindi as Link Language

1657. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, while addressing the Cenral Hindi Committee in New Delhi on 25th June, 1994, underlined the importance of nurturing Hindi in atleast three different ways and stressed the need for propagation of Hindi as the link language;

(b) if so, what specific steps have so far been taken for the development of Hindi as a link language; and

(c) what further steps are being taken in that direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Following specific steps have been taken for the development of Hindi as a link language:—

(i) 100 per cent Central assistance for appointment and training of Hindi teachers in non-Hindi speaking States/UTs.

(ii) Financial assistance to Voluntary organisations for promotion and propagation of Hindi (assistance is provided at the rate of 75 per cent of the approved expenditure estimates);

(iii) Assistance for publication of books in Hindi (at the rate of 80 per cent of the approved expenditure estimates);

(iv) Training of Hindi teachers in non-Hindi speaking areas by Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education;

(v) Purchase of books published in Hindi for free distribution to organisations/institutions/libraries;

(vi) Correspondence courses for teaching Hindi by Centra Hindi Directorate, New Delhi (CHD), a subordinate office under the Department of Education;

(vii) Production of bilingual and multilingual dictionaries in English, Hindi and other Indian languages by the CHD;

(viii) Compilation and production of glossaries in Hindi and other Indian languages by the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology, (CSTT), a subordinate office under the Department of Education;

(ix) Organisation of Workshops for University/College level teachers to orient them in Hindi and modern Indian languages by CSTT;

(x) Award of prices for non-Hindi writers for writing books in Hindi by CHD;

(xi) Recognition of various Hindi examinations conducted by voluntary Hindi organisations;

(xii) Teaching of Hindi as 2nd/3rd language in schools in non-Hindi speaking States under the Three Languages Formula;

(xiii) Scholarhips to students from non-Hindi speaking States for Postmatric studies in Hindi.